LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Paper 2 Drama
SPECIMEN PAPER

For Examination from 2019

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer two questions.

You must answer one passage-based question (marked *) and one essay question (marked †).
Your questions must be on two different plays.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

The specimen questions in this document are for general illustrative purposes.

Please see the syllabus for the relevant year of examination for details of the set texts.
Either *1 Read this passage carefully, and then answer the question that follows it:

_Keller:_ George – hey, you kissed it out of my head – your brother’s...
Explore the ways in which Miller makes this such a dramatic and significant moment in the play.

Or †2 In what ways does Miller memorably convey the relationship between Joe Keller and his son Chris?
Either *3

Read this passage carefully, and then answer the question that follows it:

Inspector: Mrs Birling, you’re a member – a prominent member – of the Brumley Women’s Charity Organization, aren’t you?

[Mrs Birling does not reply.]

Sheila: Go on, Mother. You might as well admit it. [To Inspector:] Yes, she is. Why?

Inspector [calmly]: It’s an organization to which women in distress can appeal for help in various forms. Isn’t that so?

Mrs Birling [with dignity]: Yes. We’ve done a great deal of useful work in helping deserving cases.

Inspector: There was a meeting of the interviewing committee two weeks ago?

Mrs Birling: I dare say there was.

Inspector: You know very well there was, Mrs Birling. You were in the chair.

Mrs Birling: And if I was, what business is it of yours?

Inspector [severely]: Do you want me to tell you – in plain words?

[Enter Birling looking rather agitated.]

Birling: That must have been Eric.

Mrs Birling [alarmed]: Have you been up to his room?

Birling: Yes. And I called out on both landings. It must have been Eric we heard go out then.

Mrs Birling: Silly boy! Where can he have gone to?

Birling: I can’t imagine. But he was in one of his excitable queer moods, and even though we don’t need him here—

Inspector [cutting in, sharply]: We do need him here. And if he’s not back soon, I shall have to go and find him.

[Birling and Mrs Birling exchange bewildered and rather frightened glances.]

Sheila: He’s probably just gone to cool off. He’ll be back soon.

Inspector [severely]: I hope so.

Mrs Birling: And why should you hope so?

Inspector: I’ll explain why when you’ve answered my questions, Mrs Birling.

Birling: Is there any reason why my wife should answer questions from you, Inspector?

Inspector: Yes, a very good reason. You’ll remember that Mr Croft told us – quite truthfully, I believe – that he hadn’t spoken to or seen Eva Smith since last September. But Mrs Birling spoke to and saw her only two weeks ago.

Sheila [astonished]: Mother!

Birling: Is this true?
Mrs Birling: [after a pause]: Yes, quite true.
Inspector: She appealed to your organization for help?
Mrs Birling: Yes.
Inspector: Not as Eva Smith?
Mrs Birling: No. Nor as Daisy Renton.
Inspector: As what then?
Mrs Birling: First, she called herself Mrs Birling—
Birling: [astounded]: Mrs Birling!
Mrs Birling: Yes, I think it was simply a piece of gross impertinence—
quite deliberate — and naturally that was one of the things that prejudiced me against her case.
Birling: And I should think so! Damned impudence!
Inspector: You admit being prejudiced against her case?
Mrs Birling: Yes.
Sheila: Mother, she’s just died a horrible death — don’t forget.
Mrs Birling: I’m very sorry. But I think she had only herself to blame.
Inspector: Was it owing to your influence, as the most prominent member of the committee, that help was refused the girl?
Mrs Birling: Possibly.
Inspector: Was it or was it not your influence?
Mrs Birling: [stung]: Yes, it was. I didn’t like her manner.

[from Act 2]

In what ways does Priestley make this moment in the play so dramatic and revealing?

Or †4 Does Priestley’s writing make it possible for you to have any sympathy for Sheila?
Either *5  Read this passage carefully, and then answer the question that follows it:

Portia: Why then, thus it is:
   You must prepare your bosom for his knife.

Shylock: O noble judge! O excellent young man!

Portia: For the intent and purpose of the law
   Hath full relation to the penalty,
   Which here appeareth due upon the bond.

Shylock: 'Tis very true. O wise and upright judge,
   How much more elder art thou than thy looks!

Portia: Therefore, lay bare your bosom.

Shylock: Ay, his breast –
   So says the bond; doth it not, noble judge?
   'Nearest his heart’, those are the very words.

Portia: It is so. Are there balance here to weigh
   The flesh?

Shylock: I have them ready.

Portia: Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your charge,
   To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.

Shylock: Is it so nominated in the bond?

Portia: It is not so express’d, but what of that?
   'Twere good you do so much for charity.

Shylock: I cannot find it; 'tis not in the bond.

Portia: You, merchant, have you anything to say?

Antonio: But little: I am arm’d and well prepar’d.
   Give me your hand Bassanio; fare you well.
   Grieve not that I am fall’n to this for you,
   For herein Fortune shows herself more kind
   Than is her custom. It is still her use
   To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,
   To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow
   An age of poverty; from which ling’ring penance
   Of such misery doth she cut me off.

   Commend me to your honourable wife;
   Tell her the process of Antonio’s end;
   Say how I lov’d you; speak me fair in death;
   And, when the tale is told, bid her be judge
   Whether Bassanio had not once a love.
   Repent but you that you shall lose your friend,
   And he repents not that he pays your debt;
   For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,
   I’ll pay it instantly with all my heart.

   Antonio, I am married to a wife
   Which is as dear to me as life itself;
   But life itself, my wife, and all the world,
   Are not with me esteem’d above thy life;
   I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all
   Here to this devil, to deliver you.
Portia: Your wife would give you little thanks for that, if she were by to hear you make the offer.

Gratiano: I have a wife who I protest I love; I would she were in heaven, so she could Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

Nerissa: ’Tis well you offer it behind her back; The wish would make else an unquiet house.

Shylock [Aside]: These be the Christian husbands! I have a daughter — Would any of the stock of Barrabas Had been her husband, rather than a Christian! — We trifle time; I pray thee pursue sentence.

Portia: A pound of that same merchant’s flesh is thine. The court awards it and the law doth give it.

[from Act 4 Scene 1]

How does Shakespeare make this such a powerful and memorable moment in the play?

Or †6 How far does Shakespeare’s writing convince you that Bassanio deserves Portia?
Either

*7 Read this passage carefully, and then answer the question that follows it:

Enter CALIBAN, with a burden of wood.

A noise of thunder heard.

Caliban: All the infections that the sun sucks up
From bogs, fens, flats, on Prosper fall, and make him
By inch-meal a disease! His spirits hear me,
And yet I needs must curse. But they'll nor pinch,
Fright me with urchin-shows, pitch me i' th' mire,
Nor lead me, like a firebrand, in the dark
Out of my way, unless he bid 'em; but
For every trifle are they set upon me;
Sometime like apes that mow and chatter at me,
And after bite me; then like hedgehogs which
Lie tumbling in my barefoot way, and mount
Their pricks at my footfall; sometime am I
All wound with adders, who with cloven tongues
Do hiss me into madness.

Enter TRINCULO.

Lo, now, lo!
Here comes a spirit of his, and to torment me
For bringing wood in slowly. I'll fall flat;
Perchance he will not mind me.

Trinculo: Here's neither bush nor shrub to bear off any weather at all,
and another storm brewing; I hear it sing i' th' wind.
Yond same black cloud, yond huge one, looks like a foul
bombard that would shed his liquor. If it should thunder as
it did before, I know not where to hide my head. Yond same
cloud cannot choose but fall by pailfuls. What have we here?
a man or a fish? dead or alive? A fish: he smells like a fish; a
very ancient and fish-like smell; a kind of not-of-the-newest
Poor-John. A strange fish! Were I in England now, as once
I was, and had but this fish painted, not a holiday fool there
but would give a piece of silver. There would this monster
make a man; any strange beast there makes a man; when
they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, they will lay
out ten to see a dead Indian. Legg'd like a man, and his fins
like arms! Warm, o' my troth! I do now let loose my opinion;
hold it no longer: this is no fish, but an islander, that hath
lately suffered by a thunderbolt.
[Thunder] Alas, the storm is come again! My best way is
to creep under his gaberdine; there is no other shelter
hereabout. Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.
I will here shroud till the dregs of the storm be past.

Enter STEPHANO singing; a bottle in his hand.

Stephano: I shall no more to sea, to sea,
Here shall I die ashore –
This is a very scurvy tune to sing at a man's funeral; well,
here's my comfort. [Drinks.
The master, the swabber, the boatswain, and I,
The gunner, and his mate,
Lov’d Mall, Meg, and Marian, and Margery,
But none of us car’d for Kate;
For she had a tongue with a tang,
Would cry to a sailor ‘Go hang!’
She lov’d not the savour of tar nor of pitch,
Yet a tailor might scratch her where’er she did itch.
Then to sea, boys, and let her go hang!

This is a scurvy tune too; but here’s my comfort. [Drinks.

Caliban: Do not torment me. O!
Stephano: What’s the matter? Have we devils here? Do you put tricks
upon’s with savages and men of Ind? Ha! I have not scap’d
drowning to be afreard now of your four legs; for it hath been
said: As proper a man as ever went on four legs cannot
make him give ground; and it shall be said so again, while
Stephano breathes at nostrils.

Caliban: The spirit torments me. O!
Stephano: This is some monster of the isle with four legs, who hath got,
as I take it, an ague. Where the devil should he learn our
language? I will give him some relief, if it be but for that. If I
can recover him, and keep him tame, and get to Naples with
him, he’s a present for any emperor that ever trod on neat’s
leather.

Caliban: Do not torment me, prithee; I’ll bring my wood home faster.
Stephano: He’s in his fit now, and does not talk after the wisest. He shall
taste of my bottle; if he have never drunk wine afore, it will
go near to remove his fit. If I can recover him, and keep him
tame, I will not take too much for him; he shall pay for him
that hath him, and that soundly.

Caliban: Thou dost me yet but little hurt; thou wilt anon, I know it by
thy trembling; now Prosper works upon thee.

[from Act 2 Scene 2]

How does Shakespeare make this such a memorable moment in the play?

Or ✝️ To what extent do you think that Shakespeare portrays Prospero as a cruel master?
OSCAR WILDE: The Importance of Being Earnest

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

Either *9

Read this passage carefully, and then answer the question that follows it:

Cecily: Uncle Jack! Oh, I am pleased to see you back. But what horrid clothes you have got on. Do go and change them.

Miss Prism: Cecily!

Chasuble: My child! my child. [CECILY goes towards JACK; he kisses her brow in a melancholy manner.]

Cecily: What is the matter, Uncle Jack? Do look happy! You look as if you had toothache, and I have got such a surprise for you. Who do you think is in the dining-room? Your brother!

Jack: Who?

Cecily: Your brother Ernest. He arrived about half an hour ago.

Jack: What nonsense! I haven’t got a brother.

Cecily: Oh, don’t say that. However badly he may have behaved to you in the past he is still your brother. You couldn’t be so heartless as to disown him. I’ll tell him to come out. And you will shake hands with him, won’t you, Uncle Jack? [Runs back into the house.]

Chasuble: These are very joyful tidings.

Miss Prism: After we had all been resigned to his loss, his sudden return seems to me peculiarly distressing.

Jack: My brother is in the dining-room? I don’t know what it all means. I think it is perfectly absurd. [Enter ALGERNON and CECILY hand in hand. They come slowly up to JACK.]

Jack: Good heavens! [Motions ALGERNON away.]

Algernon: Brother John, I have come down from town to tell you that I am very sorry for all the trouble I have given you, and that I intend to lead a better life in the future. [JACK glares at him and does not take his hand.]

Cecily: Uncle Jack, you are not going to refuse your own brother’s hand?

Jack: Nothing will induce me to take his hand. I think his coming down here disgraceful. He knows perfectly well why.

Cecily: Uncle Jack, do be nice. There is some good in everyone. Ernest has just been telling me about his poor invalid friend Mr Bunbury whom he goes to visit so often. And surely there must be much good in one who is kind to an invalid, and leaves the pleasures of London to sit by a bed of pain.

Jack: Oh! he has been talking about Bunbury, has he?

Cecily: Yes, he has told me all about poor Mr Bunbury, and his terrible state of health.

Jack: Bunbury! Well, I won’t have him talk to you about Bunbury or about anything else. It is enough to drive one perfectly frantic.

Algernon: Of course I admit that the faults were all on my side. But I must say that I think that Brother John’s coldness to me is
peculiarly painful. I expected a more enthusiastic welcome especially considering it is the first time I have come here.

*Cecily:* Uncle Jack, if you don’t shake hands with Ernest I will never forgive you.

*Jack:* Never forgive me?

*Cecily:* Never, never, never!

*Jack:* Well, this is the last time I shall ever do it. *[Shakes hands with ALGERNON and glares.]*

*Chasuble:* It’s pleasant, is it not, to see so perfect a reconciliation? I think we might leave the two brothers together.

*Miss Prism:* Cecily, you will come with us.

*Cecily:* Certainly, Miss Prism. My little task of reconciliation is over.

*Chasuble:* You have done a beautiful action today, dear child.

*Miss Prism:* We must not be premature in our judgements.

*Cecily:* I feel very happy. *[They all go off except JACK and ALGERNON.]*

*Jack:* You young scoundrel, Algy, you must get out of this place as soon as possible. I don’t allow any Bunburying here. *[Enter MERRIMAN.]*

*Merriman:* I have put Mr Ernest’s things in the room next to yours, sir. I suppose that is all right?

*Jack:* What?

*Merriman:* Mr Ernest’s luggage, sir. I have unpacked it and put it in the room next to your own.

*Jack:* His luggage?

*Merriman:* Yes, sir. Three portmanteaus, a dressing-case, two hat-boxes, and a large luncheon-basket.

*Algernon:* I am afraid I can’t stay more than a week this time.

*[from Act 2]*

How does Wilde make this moment in the play so entertaining?

**Or**  **†10** Explore the ways in which Wilde makes the relationship between Dr Chasuble and Miss Prism so delightfully amusing.